

Provost's Corner

Bette S. Bergeron, Provost & VP for Academic Affairs

May 7, 2018

Greetings from the Provost's Office!

As our LoKo Festival activities wind down, and our end-of-semester activities gear up, I want to take this time to thank all of you for making this such an incredible year for our students. The opportunities that our students have experienced both in and out of the classroom are truly unique to Potsdam, and reflective of the incredible commitment of our faculty and staff to our students' academic, professional, and personal success.

I hope that you will be able to join me on **Saturday, May 19th**, for our campus' 198th Commencement ceremony! This capstone experience is such an important celebration in the lives of our students and their families, and is also an important celebration of all that you have done to support students in reaching this life-changing milestone. I am looking forward to a sunny day, and the opportunity to acknowledge all of our students' incredible accomplishments!



New Faces/New Positions

Faculty Senate Leadership. Congratulations to the following new Faculty Senate leaders: *Kimberly Bouchard*/Chair, *Blair Madore*/Vice Chair, and *Jason Howald*/Secretary! I appreciate the willingness of our faculty leaders to assume these very critical roles in our campus' shared governance, and look forward to working collaboratively with the Senate in the semesters to come!

I also want to acknowledge *Lisa Wilson* and *James Hubbard* for their past leadership on the Faculty Senate. Thank you, Lisa and Jim!

Vice President for Business Affairs. President Esterberg has recently announced that *Eric Johnston-Ortiz* will begin as Vice President for Business Affairs on May 21, 2018. Eric brings to Potsdam a wide range of experiences in university finance, campus administration, and physical plant. He has most recently served as the Vice President for Business Affairs at Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell. I am excited that Eric will be joining us soon!

On behalf of Academic Affairs, I also want to take this opportunity to thank *John Homburger* for his amazing service to our campus over these past several months. John's creative leadership has been critical as we've continued to address our budgetary challenges. Thank you, John—you will be missed!

Transitions. As our 2017/18 academic year winds down, there are a number of transitions to acknowledge:

- *Carol Rourke*, the Executive Assistant to the President, will be retiring effective June 15th.
- *Nicole Conant* will be assuming the role of Executive Assistant to the President upon Carol's retirement.
- *Mary Dolan*, Associate Vice President/Interim Vice President for Administration will be retiring effective May 24th.
- *Melissa Proulx* has assumed the role of Director of Human Resources.
- *Philip Neisser*, chair of Politics/Economics and former A&S Associate Dean, has accepted the position of Dean of the School of Business & Liberal Arts at SUNY Canton, effective June 14th.

Congratulations and best wishes to Carol, Nicole, Mary, Melissa, and Phil!

Women & Gender Studies. I am very pleased to announce that *Christine Doran* (E&C) has agreed to serve another year as Director of Women's & Gender Studies. Under Christine's leadership, the WGS programs have enjoyed considerable growth and exciting new vitality on campus. Christine will be completing a one-year term; extensions on the directorship's term will be determined once the work of various task forces is completed and recommendations are brought forward related to any possible restructuring within Arts & Sciences and the proposed Interdisciplinary Department, which would house WGS if approved.

Looking for previous copies of the Provost's Corner?

All editions of the Provost's Corner, as well as additional resources for faculty and staff, can be found at: <http://www.potsdam.edu/about/administration/provost/>

Athletic Director. *Sharief Hashim* will soon be joining SUNY Potsdam as our new Director of Athletics. Sharief's most recent experiences include serving as the Athletics Director at Southern Vermont College. Sharief is replacing *James Zalacca*, who will be retiring later this summer. Best wishes and congratulations to both Sharief and Jim!

Campus Updates

New Academic Programs. At the April 12, 2018 Faculty Senate meeting, the following academic programs were approved:

- **Minor in Musical Theatre**
- **Minor in Social Justice**
- **M.S. in Management** (with tracks in Human Capital Development, Organizational Leadership, Information Technology)
 - Formally the M.S. in Organizational Performance & Technology Leadership
- **M.S.Ed. Instructional Design & Technology**
 - Name change; formally the M.S.Ed. Educational Technology Specialist

In addition, the campus recently received Plan Approval from the National Association of the Schools of Theatre for our **B.A. in Arts Management**, which is ready to enroll its first cohort of students this fall!

Congratulations to everyone involved in developing these critically important academic initiatives!

Online Course Approvals. Ready to create an online course? As a reminder, we have new procedures for this approval process. If you plan to deliver an online course, you must submit an Intent Packet to DLProposal@potsdam.edu following the new timeline:

- *Credentialed Faculty* – your course development requests must be submitted no later than **August 22nd** for Winterim or **September 24th** for Spring 2019.
- *Non-credentialed Faculty* – your course development requests must be submitted no later than **May 23rd** for Winterim or **June 26th** for Spring 2019.

Upon approval of your Intent Packet, an Instructional Designer will contact you to establish a course development timeline and will assist you in developing the course. The [DL Course Approval Process Infographic](#) walks you through the entire process, and you can find comprehensive guidelines and policies at [Policies and Procedures for Online Course](#)

Development. More details and the downloadable [Intent to Develop & Deliver Form](#) can be found on the [CCI Online Learning website](#).

Updates from the Registrar. Advisors in the Student Success Center have been given access to Transfer Finder. Transfer Finder is a tool accessible through BearDeN that allows undergraduates to see how their completed credits would transfer to another SUNY institution. This tool is not to encourage students to transfer out, but is intended as a resource for students who need to transfer due to low grades, personal reasons, or to pursue a different program that we do not offer. SUNY General Education courses and Transfer Pathway courses should automatically fulfill requirements at differing SUNY Institutions.

As a reminder, the first iterations of the Winter and Spring 2019 schedules are now available for editing: <https://ems-web.potsdam.edu/CampusPlanningInterface/Login.aspx> . These iterations are due at 8:00am on **Tuesday, September 4th**, 2018.

Updates from Student Accounts. Over the summer months, AIS and Student Accounts will be working to launch a new payment plan accessible to students directly through their e-bill portal, eliminating the need to establish another third-party account. Our payment plan allows students to spread their semester bill over four installments, to ensure bill payment is completed going into the next term.

Qualtrics Implementation. Beginning in the Fall 2018 semester, our campus will be rolling out the implementation of Qualtrics, a campus-wide survey tool supported through the Office of Institutional Effectiveness that will be available to all units *without cost*, replacing our multiple licenses of Survey Monkey or other survey tools. Training will be available in the fall semester; more information will be forthcoming. Qualtrics includes a statistical package and the option for students to use the tool with faculty mentorship. As with any surveys conducted, individuals will need to continue to submit Appendix G paperwork for survey approval. For questions, please contact Judy Singh (*Institutional Effectiveness*) at singhjr@potsdam.edu.

JCC/Potsdam Partnership. The School of Education and Professional Studies (SOEPS) and Jefferson Community College (JCC) have expanded our institutions' joint degree program in Childhood/Early Childhood Education, which now allows students the opportunity to seamlessly complete their associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees on the JCC campus in Watertown. This partnership builds on the highly successful jointly registered program between Potsdam and JCC in Business Administration, which is also offered through the JCC campus. In the new Education partnership, students who earn an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in Childhood Education at JCC can proceed without interruption to complete their

Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Early Childhood/Childhood Education through SUNY Potsdam, completing nearly all of their regular coursework in Watertown. An on-site advisor and coordinator will be assigned to the joint degree program at JCC. To learn more about the joint program in childhood education, visit www.sunyjefferson.edu/potsdamba. Potsdam's JCC programs are coordinated by *Laura Carbone* (carbonla@potsdam.edu).

Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge. During the Fall of 2018, SUNY Potsdam students will be participating in the annual Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge, facilitated by *Ashely Reis* (Environmental Studies) and *Adam Wheeler* (Wilderness Education). Through this challenge, roughly 50 universities across the country will invite students to participate in logging outdoor activities from September 17 through October 14, 2018. As part of this competitive challenge, students will download an app and upload photographs in order to log their activities, which range from hiking and cycling to birdwatching and hammock lounging--so everyone can participate! While more rigorous activity is awarded higher points, there are nonetheless many opportunities for student engagement. At the end of the challenge, the university with the most logged activities wins a "National Outdoor Champion" award (there are also regional and individual awards). For more information, visit the [Challenge website](#). Watch your email for more information!

Guidance for Student Trips. When making hotel room assignments for students for off-campus trips, it is recommended that a sign-up sheet be provided that allows students to self-select roommates. Students should not be asked to sign up for roommates by gender (male/female). Students should always be notified who to contact if there are any concerns about room assignments (e.g., the faculty sponsor). Under no circumstance is it appropriate or allowed for a SUNY employee to room with a student.

Faculty Senate Updates. Online balloting for Faculty Senate officers, members of standing committees and delegates-at-large has concluded. Upon verification of the voting and acceptance of the positions, the new officers, members of standing committees and delegates-at-large will be announced at the next Faculty Senate meeting on **Thursday, May 10 at 4:00 PM** in the 8th floor Dining Room of Raymond Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Thank you to all of you who have agreed to run for these critical leadership positions. It is a testament to the commitment our community is demonstrating to shared governance and the importance of the faculty's voices in campus decision-making. I look forward to working with all members of the Faculty Senate as our new academic year begins in August.

IT Governance Board. On April 30th the President charged the newly formed IT Governance Board, which is facilitated by *Romeyn Prescott* (Interim CIO). The initial charge includes developing the structure to prioritize initiatives related to technology and align those priorities with the campus' strategic plan. In addition to Romeyn, members of the Board include: *Bette Bergeron* (Provost), *Karla Fennell* (SOEPS), *Michael Phillips* (CCI), *Robin Collen* (A&S), *Mark Martinchek* (Purchasing & Payables), *Beth Todd* (Student Accounts), *Andy Martin* (Facilities), *Jenica Rogers* (Libraries/Lougheed Learning Commons), *Tony Betrus* (SOEPS), *Erica Kaiser* (Admissions), *Ruth Policella* (Student Affairs), *Mindy Thompson* (College Communications), and *Kadiatou Balde* (SGA).

Coffee and Conversation

A huge "thank you" to the many faculty and staff members who attended this year's Coffee and Conversation sessions. I enjoyed the dialogue, feedback, and input!

As I start putting together the schedule for the next academic year, I'd love to hear your ideas:

- Was it helpful to alternate between Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings?
- Are there other days/times that would be more accommodating?
- As we look to next year, what topics should we be discussing?
- Other suggestions for our monthly dialogues?



If you have ideas or suggestions please contact me at bergerbs@potdam.edu.

Around the State/System

SUNY Provost. SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson has recently announced the appointment of SUNY's incoming Provost, *Tod Laursen*. Tod was the founding president of Khalifa University in the United Arab Emirates, and has also served as a Chair and Senior Associate Dean for Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering. Tod's appointment as SUNY Provost will begin on September 1, 2018.

OER Workshop at SUNY Canton. SUNY Canton is hosting an OER Workshop facilitated through SUNY's Center for Professional Development on **May 14, 2018**. This workshop is open

to all SUNY Potsdam faculty and staff. Information about the event and registration can be accessed at: <http://open-nys.org/event-one/suny-canton/>.

SUNY-Industry Conference and Showcase. Stony Brook, in collaboration with the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement (NCSCE), will be hosting a conference entitled "*SUNY-Industry Conference and Showcase: Science and Engineering for Social Good*." The conference will be held at Stony Brook University on **June 3-5, 2018**. This faculty development and industry-engaged conference will bring together faculty, administrators, professional staff, and industry professionals from throughout SUNY, NY industries, and several national networks. For further information on the conference, including registration information for individuals and organizations (e.g., SUNY institutions and industries for the SUNY-Industry showcase), please note the link to the [conference website](#).

If you have questions, please contact *Kyle Simmons*, NCSCE's Faculty Development Events Manager at kyle.simmons.1@stonybrook.edu or by phone at (202) 276-2343.



Mark Your Calendars!

Employee Recognition Ceremony. I hope you will be able to join your colleagues for our annual *Employee Recognition Ceremony*, to be held on **Wednesday, May 23rd, at 10:00am**. The event will be held in the Barrington Student Union. This annual event is a wonderful way to celebrate the many accomplishments and important milestones of SUNY Potsdam's amazing faculty and staff. I hope to see you there!

Center for Creative Instruction (CCI). Be sure to mark your calendars for the following:

- ***Mindfulness Meditation Practices for Student Care***
 - *Presenter:* Louise Tyo
 - *Description:* An increasing number of students find college life stressful or overwhelming. Faculty and staff can help students manage that stress by teaching them "mindful meditation" practices. In this workshop participants will (1) be introduced to Duke University's KORU Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Mode, (2) compare meditation myths and meditation facts, (3) learn specific hands-on meditation practices that can help identify the thoughts and emotions often connected to stress, and (4) consider ways that personal reflection

can help a student persevere by “staying awake” in the present moment as someone committed to their own education.

- *Date/Time:* **Monday, May 14th** at 12:00-1:15pm.
- *Location:* CCI (Lougheed Learning Commons -106).
- *Registration:* Required by **05-10-18** ([Register Online](#)).

For more event information and access to event videos, visit the CCI website at:

www.potsdam.edu/faculty/CCI/. Need support? Have ideas? Contact cci@potsdam.edu to set an appointment or share your ideas.

2018 Faculty Scholarship & Creative Activity Fair. Interested in presenting at *Fall 2018 Faculty Scholarship and Creative Activity Fair*? On **Wednesday, August 22, 2018**, SUNY Potsdam will host its third *Faculty Scholarship and Creative Activity Celebration*. Every faculty member is invited to share highlights of their research, scholarship, and/or creative activity.

The day will include two morning sessions, two afternoon sessions, and a break for lunch. Presentations will start at 9:00am and conclude at 4:30pm. Each session will feature four to five speakers who will each present for 10 to 15 minutes, with five minutes allotted for Q & A. With the support of the Office of the Provost, a lunch will be provided for all presenters and the first 100 attendees who register to attend. The day will conclude with a cocktail hour. Please join your colleagues both at the presentations and the social gatherings.

Interested in presenting? Let us Know ([Sign Up Online](#)).

****RESCHEDULED** Inclusive Classrooms Workshop.** On behalf of the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and the Office of the Provost, I am excited to announce that the two-day workshop on *“Inclusive Curriculum Design and Inclusive/Engaging Classrooms”* has been rescheduled. Two sessions are being offered: **August 16th & 17th OR August 20th & 21st**. The workshop will be held on the SUNY Potsdam campus; more details will be forthcoming.

The workshop will be facilitated by A. T. Miller, the Associate Provost for Academic Diversity at Cornell University. Day one of the workshop will focus on the understanding of biases, as well as how to manage these biases and create/promote inclusive pedagogy and classrooms. Day two will provide participants with the opportunity to bring inclusive practices into their own courses and to consult with colleagues on the implementation of best practices in inclusive pedagogy.

To register for the workshop, [click here](#). For more information, contact *Bernadette Tiapo* (tiapobs@potssdam.edu).

Coming Due...

Facul-TE Awards. The CCI accepts applications for the *Facul-TE Awards* three times during the academic year. The next round of applications will be accepted between **May 1, 2018- May 15, 2018**. These awards support teaching excellence projects directly related to professional development in improving teaching and learning. All faculty, including adjunct faculty, are eligible to apply. For award criteria and application information, go to [Facul-TE Funding](#).

TRiO Tutor Nominations. During this past academic year, collaborations between the faculty and TRiO have created successful learning environments for over 200 TRiO participants, provided meaningful employment to over 100 SUNY Potsdam students, and contributed to the overall retention and success rate of the institution. Your work with the TRiO staff, students, and tutors remains absolutely integral to the success of these amazing students. As planning for 2018/19 begins, the next step is to compile a list of potential new TRiO tutors. To recruit the most appropriate, skilled, and skillful students, the office is asking for your assistance in identifying potential tutors for the next academic year.

TRiO tutors provide 1-1 tutoring to TRiO-eligible students. Students recruited to apply for employment as TRiO tutors are in Acceptable Academic Standing; have achieved 3.3 or better in the courses they tutor; demonstrate strong interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills; demonstrate sound organizational and study skills; and have a willingness to help other SUNY Potsdam students be successful.

Please send the names of students you recommend as TRiO tutors for the 2018-2019 academic year, as well as the courses for which you are recommending them, by **June 10, 2018**.

If you have any questions, contact *Faye Lamar* at lamarfm@potssdam.edu. Thank you for your anticipated assistance with the on-going mission of TRiO.

Bookstore Briefing

Do you know how the College bookstore tries to reduce costs for our students?



- They give students the option of new, used, or rental materials whenever available.
- They tell students which materials are required and which are recommended.
- They use a price comparison tool (Verba Price Compare) to be sure their markup is competitive with online retailers, such as Amazon.
- They shop at multiple vendors and search for discounted deals around the globe to reduce costs for our students!

Corrections...



The following faculty members were inadvertently left off the list of faculty liaisons for the Student Care Initiatives: *Carol Franck* (Libraries), *Glenn Johnson* (Biology), and *Daniel Lempert* (Politics).

In Case You Missed It

Commencement Volunteers Needed! A large number of volunteers are needed each year for our Commencement Ceremony. If you have not already signed up, you can volunteer by filling out the following form: <https://www.potsdam.edu/commencement/volunteerform> .

The Commencement Ceremony, which will take place on **Saturday, May 19**, will begin at 10:15 a.m. in the Academic Quad. Volunteers are asked to arrive for check-in at 8:00 a.m. in Dexter's Café. Additional information about the ceremonies and overall schedule details are also available at <https://www.potsdam.edu/commencement/facultystaff>. If you have specific questions about volunteering, please contact *Julie Dold* at doldjm@potsdam.edu or x2350.

Did You Know...

.... Information about *Service Learning* course designators, including criteria and processes, can be found at:

<http://www.potsdam.edu/support/ssc/eoo/ServiceLearning/faculty>



Kudos

Lougheed Applied Learning Grant. Congratulations to the following for receiving funding from the Lougheed Applied Learning Grants (March 2018 submissions):

- *Robin Collen* (Theatre & Dance): "Mindfulness in the Studio & Classroom" (\$1,109)
- *Robert Ewy* (Biology): "National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions/Pre-Health Programming" (\$2,000)
- *Lynn Hall* (C&I, Literacy, & Special Education): "Building Wellness & Resilience in Schools and Communities" (\$1,109)
- *Tanya Hewitt & Christopher Torres* (Exercise Science): "National Strength & Conditioning Association Conference" (\$3,307)
- *Nathanial Infante* (Art): "Printmaking Equipment" (\$3,101)
- *Michael Popovic* (Politics): "Preparation for Travel Course/Immigration" (\$2,000)
- *William Romey* (Biology): "Animal Behavior Society Conference Presentation" (\$1,572)
- *Joshua Vink* (Theatre & Dance) & *Marc Ernesti* (Crane): "TEDx SUNY Potsdam" (\$3,967)

Congratulations to... Congratulations and kudos to the following outstanding faculty and staff:

- **Raymond Bowdish** (Biology) received the Outstanding Faculty Mentorship Award of Undergraduate Research at the April 2018 SUNY Potsdam Learning and Research Fair
- **Lousie Tyo** (SSC) was presented with the Distinguished EOP Advocate Award at the SUNY Potsdam Annual EOP Awards Ceremony
- **Jenica Rogers** was recently elected to serve on the Board of the newly reconstituted SUNY Council of Library Directors
- **Daisy Cox** and **Sarah Carr** (Office of the Registrar) were honored by the local chapter of the English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta for making significant contributions to English majors, other students, and the study of English on campus
- **Dr. Fadi Bou-Abdallah** (Chemistry) was awarded with the 2017 Thomas L. and Jane D. Russell Distance Education Faculty Excellence Award

Do you have ideas or news to include in the next Provost's Corner? Be sure to let me know! Just email me at bergerbs@potdam.edu.